

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN/HLK

APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF DEPARTMENT STATEMENT MADE AVAILABLE TO PRESS TODAY IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ABOUT ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN MARCH 7 EDITION OF FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE.
2. BEGIN TEXT: RESPONSES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE SHEEHAN ARTICLE IN FOREIGN POLICY

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IT HAS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE ARTICLE BY MR. EDWARD R.F. SHEEHAN, ENTITLED "STEP BY STEP IN THE MIDDLE EAST" WHICH IS TO APPEAR IN THE PERIODICAL FOREIGN POLICY AND WHICH THAT PERIODICAL HAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

THE FORWARD TO TE FOREIGN POLICY ARTICLE STATES THAT THE CONVERSATIONS QUOTED IN MR. SHEEHAN'S ARTICLE ARE VERBATIM. WAS MR. SHEEHAN SHOWN TRANSCRIPTS OR MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION?

WE UNDERSTAND THAT MR. SHEEHAN SPENT A YEAR ON THIS

PROJECT TALKING TO OVER 60 SOURCES ON THREE CONTINENTS. ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE ITSELF, THE AUTHOR'S CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED A LONG TRIP TO THE AREA, AND TALKS WITH LEADING ARAB AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS. PEOPLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALSO TALKED TO HIM ON A BACKGROUND BASIS. IN HIS CONTACTS HERE, MR. SHEEHAN DID NOT SEE ANY TRANSCRIPTS, MEMORANDA, OR OFFICIAL RECORDS, AND HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO QUOTE DIRECTLY ANYTHING TOLD HIM HERE.

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SO FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED, THE USE OF THE TERM "VERBATIM" TO DESCRIBE THE CONVERSATIONS QUOTED IS INACCURATE.

ARE THE QUOTES AND THE INFORMATION CONVEYED IN THEM ACCURATE?

SO FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS CONCERNED, IT IS

INACCURATE TO DESCRIBE THE CONVERSATIONS AND QUOTATIONS AS VERBATIM. WE CANNOT SPEAK FOR OTHERS TO WHOM HE TALKED. INsofar AS MR. SHEEHAN WAS BRIEFED ON THE BASIS OF ANY OF OUR RECORDS OF CONVERSATIONS, TIS REPRESENTED A GROSS VIOLATION OF CONFIDENCE AND WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY. AS TO THE STYLE AND TECHNIQUE CHOSEN BY THE AUTHOR IN WRITING HIS ARTICLE, THAT IS NOT FOR US TO EXPLAIN. THE SECRETARY HAS SAID MANY TIMES, IN MANY OTHER CASES, THAT WE RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS. THE CONDUCT OF OUR DIPLOMACY DEPENDS UPON OTHERS HAVING CONFIDENCE THAT WHAT THEY SAY TO US WILL REMAIN PRIVATE. THAT REMAINS OUR FIRM POLICY. SO WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT ARTICLE.

WHAT ABOUT MR. SHEEHAN'S ACCOUNTS OF PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO THE PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS?

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ALLEGED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER LEADERS. AMERICAN POLICY ON THE QUESTION OF FINAL BOUNDARIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REMAINS WHAT HAS BEEN STATED SO MANY TIMES: WE SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 OF NOVEMBER 1967 WHICH SETS OUT THE ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THAT RESOLUTION COMBINES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES IN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID, AND REPEAT ONCE AGAIN, THAT IT IS FOR THE

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PARTIES THEMSELVES TO WORK OUT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RESOLUTION -- INCLUDING THEIR NEGOTIATION OF THE FINAL BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THEM. IT IS NOT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PRESENT A BLUEPRINT FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT OR TO DRAW BOUNDARIES. AS WE HAVE SAID, UNDER RESOLUTION 242, IT IS FOR THE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATE THOSE BOUNDARIES.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE055348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GFSHERMAN/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0770
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760386/aaaacyml.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 AUG 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF, (SHEEHAN, EDWARD)
To: AMMAN
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006